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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Metalliferous Mines

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Iron Ore

1. The only developed iron mine in Bulgaria is the Blagovest mine (Fe4) near Yambol. It may now be producing 100,000 tons per year, as its production has been pushed by the Communists.

Nickel

2. No nickel has been produced in Bulgaria.

Titanium

3. At Burgas (Ti 1) on the Black Sea there is a large deposit of black sand. The Italian firm, AMI in Rome, obtained a concession to mine it for titanium and other minerals during World War II. Machinery such as magnetic concentrators, tables, etc. was brought in, but no mining was done, and there has been no activity since World War II. Detailed information on the area is in the possession of the Italian firm.

Tungsten

4. There has been no development at the Plachkovtsi (W1) tungsten deposit near Kazanluk.

Manganese

5. (a) The Pozarevo Area (Mn 1) (Probudo Mine) about 11 miles northwest of Sofia, produced about 15,000 tons during World War II. There has been no activity since then. The Germans were interested in Bulgarian manganese, but the Communists are not, because of the availability of Soviet manganese.

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(b) The other deposits (Mn2 to Mn8) are small and undeveloped.

Chromium

6. Five to ten thousand tons of chromium ore per year are still being mined from small mines along the Greek border (CR 1, CR 2, CR 3, CR 4), but there has been no attempt to increase this effort.

Copper

7. (a) The Shlastie mine (Cu 1) and the West Plakalnitza properties (Cu 4) are not producing. The Plakalnitza mine (Cu 2) is exhausted.

(b) The Ludzhana (Luzhene) Mine (Cu 5) near Panagyurishte has been producing pyrites. As early as 1944, this mine was exporting 15,000 tons of pyrite per year and since World War II it has been producing 10 to 15,000 tons per year.

(c) The total reserves in the three copper deposits near Panagyurishte (Cu 4, Cu 5, Cu 6) are not over 40 to 50,000 tons. What copper is produced is shipped to the USSR.

(d) The Rosen Bair mine (Cu 7) in the Burgas region has two concentrating plants (1953). No production figures are available but production is believed to be considerable. Part of the copper is smelted in the Eliseyna concentrator and smelter (Cu 3) and part shipped to the USSR.

Lead and Zinc

8. (a) The Communists have been exerting considerable efforts to push the production of the lead and zinc mines near the Greek border in the Rodhope (Rodopi) Mountains.

(b) The Kurdzhali concentrator is a flotation plant built by the Germans near Pirin. It has a capacity of 200,000 tons per year.

(c) The Rodopski concentrator near Madan has a capacity of 20 to 30,000 tons per year.

(d) A new, modern concentrator was completed in 1953, and an entirely new town (Rudozem) has been built around it. Rudozem is close to the producing mines and avoids an aerial tram, 40 miles long, which previously constituted a bottleneck.

(e) The total production from the area is about 250,000 tons of lead and zinc ore. [These figures could not be clarified. A production of about 400,000 - 500,000 tons per year of ore would appear to be possible with the completion of the new concentrator.]

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Uranium

9. (a) The Sofia area (U 1) was not developed by the Germans but has been intensively mined by the Soviets. [redacted] only a few thousand tons of ore have been found and recovered, notwithstanding the employment of several thousand workers.

(b) This area is the only place where uranium has been found although search is being made throughout the country, especially for the geological origin of the uranium.

(c) The ore is pockety and extremely irregular. It is mined underground from an alluvial, river deposited bed.

(d) At the spa of Sulu Dervent (Mumina Banya), the Communists have investigated the radioactive waters but have found no uranium.

Steel Plant

10. There is a small steel plant at Pernik with an electric furnace, two Martin furnaces. [redacted] the published figures of 250,000 tons annual production constitute propaganda claims and are very exaggerated.

[redacted]

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